GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3066
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
OLD STOCK OF FOODGRAINS IN FCI GODOWNS
RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large quantum of wheat and rice are lying in the godowns of Food Corporation of India for more than three year;

(b) whether the foodgrains lying unused beyond a fixed period do not remain fit for human consumption; and

(c) if so, the said fixed period and the scheme of the Government for the utilization of foodgrains, which are lying in the godowns beyond the said period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a): A quantity of 10.3 Lakh tonnes of wheat and 3.42 lakh tonnes of rice were more than three years old, lying in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 1st July,2001.

(b): There is no fix period after which foodgrains became unfit for human consumption. Grains can be fit after three years if storage is done in a scientific manner. The F C I undertakes storage of foodgrains in scientifically build godowns, and in a scientific manner.The quality and condition of stocks is monitored by undertaking periodic inspections, and disinfestation treatments at regular intervals.

(c): Some times, inspite of various steps taken, some damage to the foodgrain stocks take place due to long storage as well as natural calamities such as flood, cyclone etc. Such damaged stock retrieved after segregation/salvaging, containing damaged grains beyond 5% are classified as fit for feed, industrial use, manure and dumping etc. and first offered to the State Government/Military firms etc. Thereafter the left over stock are sold through tender/ public auction to the registered parties who are bonafide users of these stocks by FCI.